

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered By Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV, On 11th December 1998

Abraham was a nation unto himself, always obedient to Allah, TO HIM ever inclined; certainly not belonging to the idolaters.

Ever grateful for His favours; who chose him and guided him to a straight path.

The Holy Quran. al-Nahl [The Bee]: 121, 122.

These verses speak of the noble qualities of the Prophet Abraham (peace be on him) and mention that He was appreciative of the favours of Allah the Almighty. In today's sermon I wish to speak further on the theme of gratitude again. First and foremost in relation to the *Jalsa Salana* Qadian that has recently passed: it is the boundless favour of Allah the Almighty that so many new Indian converts and other Indians attended that their number was greater than at any other *Jalsa*. This is a new ground. Allah has enabled Indians to attend this *Jalsa* in such large numbers among which the majority were the new Muslim converts. This *Jalsa* has set a Record among *Jalsas*. I could never have imagined that Allah the Almighty would set such glorious new standards for us.

Along with this my attention turned to the fact that no *Jalsa* has ever taken place in Pakistan attended by 10000 new converters and the number of non-Ahmadis was also comparatively small. Even if the number of non-Ahmadis and new converts is included their numbers in the *Jalsas* in Rabwah would not exceed 2000 - 2500. With the grace of Allah for this to increase in comparison with Rabwah is good news for the Rabwah they are after in that Allah would create a thousand such Rabwah. **Now look how Allah the Almighty is creating so many newly invigorated helpers for you in India who would help you in the work of the faith, they would progress in the path of piety in complete devotion to Allah** and [His] promise and treatment with the Prophet Abraham is the same that is the dealing continuing with us by the grace of God. The opponents would see how the decree of Allah is opposing them. They have nothing remaining but the fire that is burning in their breasts. So the Ahmadis of India should be especially drawn to gratitude.

The various aspects of gratitude are elaborated through the Prophetic *Ahadith* I would now present. When someone gives you something it is no small thing when you say '*May Allah reward you with the best*'. Some people foolishly say that '*Nothing was returned just a fobbing off with Jazakallah*'. What can a person give to anyone? One is oneself in need, the circle is limited, and one cannot possibly give any more than that. One who said '*Allah reward you with the best*' turned the case over to the care of God. It means that one should pray from the depth of the heart. This prayer can only rise from the depth of the heart if one possesses the sentiment of gratitude. There is a great lesson in this for Ahmadis all over the world. **Correct your everyday mutual dealings and return a favour in the best way you can through prayer. However this is with the condition that if you can give something from yourself then give this prayer in addition.** It is also the advice of the Noble Prophet that one who is gifted something should if possible give something in return. Between people one is more or less able to return something but nobody is able to give to God. The Holy

Prophet ﷺ states that if one is unable to give in return than one should be grateful by means of what one has been given:

Jabir narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: 'Whoever is given a gift, let them reciprocate it with something in return. If they have nothing, then they should mention something in praise. For whoever has mentioned something in praise, it is an expression of gratitude. But whoever refrains from it then they have committed Infidelity. Whoever pretends to be satisfied by that which they were not given, is like the one who wears a garment of falsehood.'¹

There can be many ways to do this for example by making use of what is given and to bring its advantages to others. To speak of it often and to bring its benefits to others is also a form of its gratitude.

With reference to this topic in relation to the new converts we are thrusting them all again in the path from where we were granted them. According to the reports received from Qadian these new converts have understood this and they say that they are grateful and would remain so and in fulfilling the expectation the *Jamat* has of us *we would be grateful in such a way that the very borders of Indian would echo with it*. Thus have they departed with such ambitions. Even the promise of 'If you are thankful I will indeed multiply you more ...' has been fulfilled for us.² 'I will indeed multiply more you more' also includes mention of an increase in their standards. They have returned in a much better state than the one in which they arrived.

It is also my message to the Ahmadis of Pakistan that they show patience at the complaints and disgruntlements of the troubles. God would certainly reward you the fruits of your patience. He would grant it within and outside there are already unlimited fruits being granted and we have never once forgotten that it is exclusively the sacrifices of the oppressed of Pakistan the fruits of which are being enjoyed by the whole world and we have decided to utilise this fruit so that the decree of God would say *Bravo!* every time so that His bounty would continue descending upon us more than before.

Again I remind that all of the newcomers should definitely be introduced into the habit of making financial offerings. This would increase their wealth, rather than decrease it.

I draw your attention to building mosques in large numbers for the life and soul of a believer lies in the mosque. A mosque is a deputy of the *Jamat*. I also advise Africa in this regard that they are not to stop constructing mosques. There should be no *Jamat* who does not have a mosque of their own. All the countries of the world should pay attention to the construction of mosques. Our enemies in Pakistan are enemies of the mosques but nevertheless go on building mosques wherever and however you are able to.

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¹ Tirmidhi, Abu Isa Muhammad. *Jami' at-Tirmidh: iv*. Tr. Abu Khayal. 6 vols, (Darussalam, 2007). 114, 115.

² When your Lord declared 'If you are thankful I will indeed multiply you more but if you are ungrateful then My wrath is very severe.'